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24 February 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

SUBJECT : Background of the CIA/Opc Strategic Plan.

REFERENCES : Department of State Comments on CIA/Opc Strategic Plan. TS #67720 Series B, dated 4 Dec. 1951.

Department of Defense Comments on CIA/Opc Strategic Plan. TS #66311 Series B, dated 29 Nov. 1951.

Joint Subsidiary Plans Division Comments on CIA/Opc Strategic Plan. TS #67520 Series B, dated 23 Nov. 1951, TS #67635 Series B, dated 3 Dec. 1951.

PSB Memorandum on Interim Approval of the CIA Packet. TS #81106, dated 12 June 1952.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Comments on CIA/Opc Strategic War Plan. TS #029344, dated 20 May 1952.

CIA Memorandum on Procedure for NSC 10/5 Matters. TS #76555, dated 3 Nov. 1952.

1. As per your request (Tab A) for information regarding background material on the CIA/Opc Strategic Plan, the following is hereby submitted:

a. The Plan consists of the following parts:

PART I - Purpose

PART II - Cold War Plan

PART III - Emergency Transition Plan

PART IV - Emergency War Plan (Hot War)

PART V - Administration and Logistics

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b. The draft Plan was presented to the State, Defense, and JCS Representatives at the meeting of 13 June 1951. The Plan was revised in accordance with their comments.

c. Part I (Purpose of Ops Strategic Plan) and Part II (Cold War Plan) as revised, was forwarded to each of the Representatives with a request that they consider the adequacy of the Plan for possible submission to the PSB as a statement of the scope, pace, and timing of covert operations and the allocation of priorities among these operations, in accordance with NSC 10/5.

2. The Comments of the respective Representatives were as follows:

a. The Representative of Department of State suggested that the sections which included estimates of the situation and statements of national policy be removed and that references to, or quotations from, specific NIE's and NSC papers be inserted in lieu thereof.

b. The Representative of Department of Defense reviewed the Plan from the viewpoint of ensuring that the provisions of the Plan were consistent with military policies, but did not comment upon the detailed content of the intelligence estimate nor as to the details of organizational arrangements and assignment of tasks to the operational divisions.

c. The Chief, Joint Subsidiary Plans Division (JCS), commented that the Plan was adequate as a statement of the scope and pace of covert operations but not adequate as to the timing or the allocation of priorities among these operations.

3. The comments and suggestions with respect to Parts I and II of the Plan were considered and, in the most part, incorporated in the Plan. The Representatives concurred that these two parts of the CIA/Ops Strategic Plan were suitable for submission to the Psychological Strategy Board, along with the CIA "Packet" of programs and projects.

4. On 12 June 1952, the Psychological Strategy Board took the following action.

"....the PSB believes that CIA should proceed with such programs and projectspreviously approved without unnecessary delay pending the time when PSB will have completed its current review of all the programs and projects included in the CIA Packet".

SECURITY INFORMATION

Comment: This action should be considered as only tacit acceptance of the CIA/Opc Cold War Plan and as a very weak interim blessing to continue with programs and projects approved prior to 12 June 1952 by the Director of CIA.

5. On 30 October 1952, the DCI proposed a procedure for PSB approval of NSC 10/5 programs and major projects. The procedure was approved by the NSC and is conducted as follows:

a. After a program or major project has been considered by the CIA Project Review Committee, it is presented to the 10/5 review group representing the PSB members who make their report to the Board.

Comment: Although the DCI intended that the PSB review be confined to a very small select group, the facts appear to be that far too many individuals, especially in the Department of State, have access to our programs and projects. From a security point of view, this procedure should be brought back onto a need-to-know basis.

b. Subsequently, the Board considers the report and final action is taken by the chairman who signs a formal document for the Board, indicating their action on the program or major project.

6. The above procedure conforms to NSC 10/5 and is considered final and full authority for the conduct of covert operations by the Director of CIA.

7. Part III (Emergency Transition Plan) was not completed and is now being revised by the PM Staff.

8. Part IV (Emergency War Plan for Hot War) was reviewed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 19 May 1952. They expressed the opinion that, subject to certain changes, the plan is consistent with and complementary to approved war plans. Revision of the Emergency War Plan (Part IV) is an active task of PM. This involves extensive joint planning with the JCS to define the specific commitments which CIA war planning will implement.

SUMMARY

9. Our Cold War Plan (Part II) should not be considered as having approval above the DD/P level. The Plan is not sufficiently specific to be authorization to proceed with operational action. Consequently, the procedure set forth in paragraph 5, above, should be followed until 30 June 1954.

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10. The PPC Staff, with the active cooperation of all staff elements and Area Divisions, is developing a CIA Strategic Plan for FY 1955 for NSC 10 series activities. This plan, when completed, should be approved by the PSB (or successor agency) and will be an authoritative basis for the development of the budget, fiscal programs, operations, and the essential intelligence, logistical and communication support required.

11. Our present system of centralized operation on a project basis can then be extensively streamlined and improved.

SIGNED
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Chief, Planning and
Program Coordination

Att: Tab A

cc: DD/P Admin.
Chief, PP
Chief, PM

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TAB A

Extract from the PRC Staff Study covering the SR Program:

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

This program is based upon the CIA 10/2 Strategic Plan which has been reviewed by the Departments of State and Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff and revised in accordance with the comments of each of these agencies. The CIA 10/2 Strategic Plan has also been reviewed by the Psychological Strategy Board as part of the "packet" and, as such, has the interim approval of the PSB.

* * * *

The four questions which Mr. Wisner would like answered re the attached extract are as follows:

1. What procedure was followed in having the Strategic Plan reviewed by State, Defense, and JCS?
2. What were the comments of the various agencies?
3. What revisions were made pursuant to these comments?
4. An explanation of the review by the PSB.

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